LEARNING GUIDE

FERNGULLY

THE LAST RAINFOREST™

THE COMPUTERIZED COLORING BOOK

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Capstone
THE PINNACLE OF ENTERTAINMENT SOFTWARE

The Computerized Coloring Book

A Guide for Parents and Teachers

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Today young children are comfortably and easily using computers daily. The "Computer Age" is certainly here. Each time a child turns on a computer, whether to play an educational game or just for fun, he or she is developing and fine tuning many skills that will be useful throughout life.

Parents and teachers can greatly enhance the child's learning by expanding upon the subjects introduced by the computer. Adult-child interaction has always been the most valuable learning tool available.

Following are suggestions for environment-related activities based on interest sparked by the FernGully Computerized Coloring Book. These activities are geared to help develop an awareness of and concern for our fragile environment while strengthening and enriching language arts skills and encouraging creativity. Most of the supplies called for in this booklet are items that would normally be discarded, calling attention to the importance of recycling as an aid to preserve natural resources.

Though most of these activities are designed for large or small group use in a classroom they can easily be adapted for use with one or more children at home. Hopefully, these ideas will inspire parents and teachers to use their imaginations and creativity to initiate even more activities.

'FLY, FLY, FLY'

Software Activity

MY FAVORITE FAIRY

Objective: To develop creative writing skills.

Each child reviews the pictures of the winged characters and chooses a favorite. This picture should be printed out and colored as imaginatively as possible. On the back of the picture the child writes a short paragraph explaining why this character was chosen. Younger children can dictate their paragraphs or sentences to a teacher or helper. The completed pictures are then stapled together to make a book to add to the classroom's library.

Follow-up Activities

IF I HAD WINGS

Objective: To encourage creative thinking in writing and drawing.

Supplies:

- plain paper
- crayons or markers

Each child draws and colors a picture of himself or herself wearing a pair of wings. Under the picture copy and complete the sentence, "If I had wings I would ..." These can be displayed on a bulletin board or stapled together as a class book.

PRETTY BUTTERFILES

Objective: To increase awareness of color mixing and symmetry in art and nature.

Supplies:

- fingerpaint paper
- fingerpaint in assorted colors
- spoons

Fold the paper in half with the shiny side in and crease it. Open the paper and sprinkle with water. Choose two colors of fingerpaint and place a spoonful of each side by side in the crease. Refold the paper and spread the paint by gently pulling the side of your hand from the center toward the edges of the paper. Repeat several times. Carefully open the paper and discover a beautiful butterfly. Younger children will need help with the folding and spreading, and an adult should spoon the paint and open the finished butterfly. When dry, the butterflies can be cut out and mounted on the walls.

WINGS AND MORE WINGS

Objective: To develop observational skills and an awareness of nature

Supplies:

- chalkboard or chart paper
- individual note pads (see SAVE A TREE)

Children brainstorm real creatures with wings. The teacher lists them as they are named. The group then goes for a nature walk in a nearby field or wooded area. Each child records the creatures with wings that they see. Back in the classroom compile the lists. See if any were observed that were not on the brainstorming list.

"SEE HOW IT GROWS"

Software Activity

CRYSTA'S WORLD

Objective: To increase observational skills

The child will choose a background containing many plants and place Crysta in it. Observe the plants and leaves carefully.

Fill in the plants using a different shade or color for each. Finish by coloring Crysta. Count the different colored plants found. Teams of two or three may complete this together and compete against other teams.

Follow-up Activities

YUM, YUM

Objective: To demonstrate sprouting and growth of seeds

Supplies:

- quart jar
- cheesecloth
- rubberband
- shallow dish
- alfalfa seeds
- peanut butter
- crackers
- table knives

Place two tablespoons of seeds in the jar, fill the jar with warm water, place the cheesecloth over the mouth of the jar and secure it with the rubberband. Soak the seeds over night, then drain, rinse and shake off most of the water. Place the jar on a slant in the dish. Twice daily rinse and drain the seeds encouraging the children to comment on any changes observed each time. After about five days the sprouts will be ready to eat. The children may spread peanut butter on crackers, add a generous pile of sprouts, eat and enjoy.

BOTTLE GARDEN

Objective: To increase awareness of plants and their importance to man.

Supplies:

- bottom halves of 2-liter soda bottles (prepared by an adult)
- aquarium charcoal
- potting soil
- small plants
- clear plastic tape

Each child will place charcoal in the bottom of a bottle to the depth of one inch. Place two inches of potting soil over that. Carefully plant one or more of the small plants, patting the soil gently around the roots. Go outside and collect small stones, shells, bits of moss, twigs, etc, to add decorative touches to the bottle gardens. After these have been arranged lightly water the garden. Place another bottle bottom upside down over the finished garden. Tape the two halves together. Place the garden where it will receive filtered light. The children should observe and discuss changes that have taken place from time to time.

"SAVE A TREE"

Software Activity

ZAK GOES BACK

Objective: To develop an awareness of the part we play in the conservation of natural resources.

The child should choose a background and place Zak in it. If a color printer is available fill in the areas in an imaginative way and print out the picture. If a regular printer is being used, print the picture and complete it with fine line markers. On the back make a list of ways Zak can help humans to save trees and plants in the rain forest.

Follow-up Activities

I AM A TREE

Objective: To develop an awareness of the importance of trees in our world.

Supplies:

- one large paper (such as the back of an advertising poster or the side of a cardboard box from the local supermarket)
- poster paint or colored markers
- colored construction paper
- large assorted leaf patterns (cut from used file folders)
- scissors

Sketch a tree on the large paper. The children finish it with paint or markers. Each child chooses a colored paper, traces a leaf pattern on it and cuts it out. Following a discussion on the many uses of trees each child chooses one important use of trees and writes it on the cut out. All the leaves are then stapled onto the large tree.

MAGI LUNE'S MAGIC PADS

Objective: To develop an interest in recycling

Supplies:

- used classwork or homework papers with one blank side
- extra or misprinted duplicated papers with one blank side
- junk mail with blank backs
- print outs of Magi Lune
- crayons

Each child gathers and neatly stacks 10 or 12 pages of the used paper with the blank sides up. Top this with a picture of Magi Lune. Staple several times on the left side and color the picture.

Smaller note pads for recording homework assignments, grocery lists or score keeping, etc. can be made by cutting the papers in halves, quarters or thirds and making covers from colorful magazine pages.

"LIFE IN THE RAINFOREST"

Software Activity

DAY OR NIGHT

Objective: To develop an interest in the animals that are dependent on the rainforest

Print out two copies of the background picture containing the sun in the sky. Have one group color theirs as it would look in the daytime while the other group colors it as night scene converting the sun to a moon. Post these on a bulletin board. Brainstorm with the group naming animals that might live there. Then each will draw an animal on scrap paper, color and cut it out. As each child names the animal he or she drew the class will decide whether it should be placed in the day or night scene.

Follow-up Activity

STUFFED ANIMALS

Objective: To develop an interest in animals and to encourage creativity

Supplies:

- paper grocery bags
- newspapers
- poster paint or colored markers
- staplers
- scissors

Cut off the bottom of the bag, cut up one side and open it out flat. Refold it with any printing to the inside so that the back and front are equal in size. The child draws a rainforest animal as large as possible on one side of the bag. Cut it out, being sure to cut through both sides so that there are two identical shapes. Staple the two together around the edges leaving a space of 8-10 inches. Crumple small pieces of newspaper and carefully stuff the animal. Then staple the remaining space closed. Finish the animal with paints or markers.

Susan Turner's more than 25 years of teaching experience is reflected in the learning activities provided in this guide. She retired as a kindergarten teacher for the Dade County School System, Miami, Florida in 1991 and spends much of her time traveling with her husband Ray. Susan has three grandchildren and is the mother of four, including David, Capstone's vice president of programming.

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